

Claims Pending and Amended

1. (Twice amended) An expandable hoop support for a flexible tube comprising ~~in combination~~:

a. a preformed hoop composed of a coil of material disposed about a first axis and about a second axis to form a double coil having an outer diameter, and having memory retaining properties to urge said material into said double coil; and

b. cylindrical delivery means for constraining said coil in to a linear configuration wherein ~~whereby~~ said deliver means and said coil are inserted into a ~~said~~ flexible tube at a target site having an unsupported aperture size and said delivery means is then removed, said hoop will then reconfigure to said double coil ~~an original performed loop~~ configuration wherein said double coil outer diameter is larger than said target site unsupported aperture size.

2.(previously amended) The expandable hoop support of claim 1 wherein said delivery means is a delivery tube arranged to fit within said coil.

3.(previously amended) The expandable hoop support of claim 1 wherein said delivery means is a delivery tube arranged to fit over said coil.

4.(twice amended) The expandable hoop support of claim 1 [[8]] wherein said hoop comprises a stent.

5.(twice amended) A procedure for opening a coronary artery comprising ~~in combination~~:

a. providing a preformed hoop composed of a coil of material disposed about a first axis and about a second axis to form a double coil having an outer diameter, and having memory retaining properties to urge said material into said double coil;

b. providing a cylindrical delivery means for constraining said coil into a linear configuration;

c. inserting said hoop and said delivery means into an artery at a target site having an unsupported aperture size; and

d. removing said delivery means whereby said hoop remains in said artery to support said artery in an open position wherein said double coil outer diameter is larger than said target site unsupported aperture size.

6.(original) The procedure of claim 5 wherein said deliver means is a rod arranged to fit within said coil.

7.(previously amended) The procedure of claim 5 wherein said delivery means is a delivery tube arranged to fit over said coil.

8.(twice amended) The procedure ~~expandable hoop~~ of claim 5 [[1]] wherein said step of inserting flexible tubing comprises the step of inserting said delivery means into a coronary artery.

9.(new) A vessel support system, comprising:

a preformed hoop comprising a wire disposed about a first longitudinal axis in consecutive loops therealong, and further disposed about a second axis wherein said first axis is disposed in consecutive loops along said second axis, wherein

said wire comprising a memory for hoop disposition about said second axis having an outer diameter greater than a vessel target site.

10.(new) The vessel support system of claim 9, further including a delivery means for constraining said preformed loop second axis into a substantially linear configuration.

11.(new) The vessel support system of claim 9, wherein said wire comprises a multi-filar wire.